

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM D. DURAND  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL**

**NEW ENGLAND CABLE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**MARCH 8, 2011**

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My name is Bill Durand and I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel for the New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Inc., otherwise known as NECTA. NECTA represents substantially all cable television operating and programming companies that serve Connecticut and the other five states in the region. NECTA respectfully submits testimony in opposition to Raised Bill 6446.

Current law exempts from electrical licensing requirements a whole host of persons because they do not perform the type of electrical work that necessitates a license; are employed by entities regulated by the DPUC; or work for companies that require extensive training and oversight of employees, even for minimal electrical work. This exemption list includes persons who install or repair certain electrical appliances; employees of stage and theatrical companies; persons who perform swimming pool maintenance and repair work.

Over fifteen years ago, the General Assembly exempted public service companies that install or maintain community antenna television service from the state's electrical licensing requirements. This exemption was based on the acknowledgment that the minimal low-voltage electrical work performed by our installers does not necessitate a license; cable operators' decades of experience; and the DPUC's oversight and regulation of our services.

In 2007 the state's cable regulations were overhauled. A cable operator, then known in the law as a "community antenna television company", may now also be labeled a "certified competitive video service provider" or holder of a "certificate of video franchise authority". The key fact, though, is the technical employees of cable operators or other video providers, whatever they are called, do the exact same thing they have done for decades: install cable equipment and maintain quality cable service. Cable operators, regardless of the regulatory nomenclature created by the 2007 law, are regulated by the DPUC and install and maintain cable service.

For all the reasons stated above, there is no basis to subject any cable or video installers to the state's electrical licensing requirements, particularly when so many other persons are exempt.

Thank you.